

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC

Military Activity in the Area of Mechanized Division Potsdam

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 21 October 1954

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At about 0400 on 18 September 1954, elements of signal Battalion Potsdam-Eiche went to Gross Wudicke and participated in a command post exercise which was conducted by Division Potsdam. The exercise was attended by about 40 officers, including all unit commanders, field grade officers and Soviet advisers. The command post exercise represented the final phase of the inspection which was held by high-ranking officers from Berlin. The signal battalion had to construct a telephone main line about 15 km long and had to establish telephone connections to the 1st Mecz Regt, 2d Mecz Regt, 3d Mecz Regt, medium tank regiment, heavy regiment, artillery regiment and mortar regiment. 1
2. At 0845 on 15 September, the regiment from the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam was inspected by Colonel Ernst (fnu), the commander of the division. About 65 percent of KVPs wore blue service color, while the others wore claret.¹ At about 0900 on 23 September, two platoons of recruits wearing blue service color did close-order drill at the installation. Four SU-100 were cleaned by six VPs each. On 29 September, a company of recruits returned to the caserne from field training at Bornstedter Feld. In late September, the Ruinenberg Kaserne was occupied by about 1,400 KVPs, including 250 to 350 recruits. On 29 September, a KVP officer stated that two or three companies were still at the summer camp, and that, in addition, 400 to 500 recruits were to be quartered at the installation. Thus, some of the troops which have been so far stationed there will possibly be transferred to the former General Wever Kaserne in Potsdam-Eiche. 2
3. Between 15 and 29 September, the Garde du Corps Kaserne was vacant except for a guard detail of about 20 KVPs. Several buildings which had been hit by bombs were reconditioned. KVP trucks shuttled construction material to the installation. 3

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4. On 16 September, 3 trucks, each occupied by 16 KVPs with blue service color, and 1 truck carrying 2 x 57-mm AT guns left the former General Wever Kaserne in Potsdam-Eiche. The installation was occupied by about 1,400 KVPs. Some of them wore yellow-bordered black collar patches. On 28 September, three trucks, each occupied by about 20 KVPs, left toward the firing ranges at Bornim. Two groups of 16 KVPs each left the caserne for field training. The KVPs wore yellow-bordered black collar patches and carried field wire drums and portable radio sets. 4
5. A KVP officer stated that Regiment Oranienburg was stationed at the summer camp from 18 to about 27 September. 5
6. On 22 September, the Oranienburg concentration camp was only lightly occupied. A large KVP contingent was still detached for harvest. At 1015, 2 T-34 tanks, 2 BA-64 armored scout cars and 1 truck occupied by 15 KVPs and towing an artillery piece drove to the wooded area via Lehnitzschleuse. At about 1500, they returned to the installation. 5
7. On 21, 22 and 23 September, the Oranienburg concentration camp was only lightly occupied. About 55 KVPs with machine guns, 52-mm mortars, and portable radio sets marched to the terrain near Lehnitzschleuse. 5
8. On 27 September, numerous tank tracks led from the Oranienburg freight station to the concentration camp. On 29 September, four T-34/85 tanks stood in front of the tank shed near gate No I.
9. At about 1800 on 28 September, a KVP train of 10 boxcars with 25 KVPs each, and an undetermined number of flatcars with at least 4 x 57-mm AT guns, 3 artillery pieces probably of 76.2-mm, 30 trucks, 3 field kitchens, 1 ambulance and several jeeps stood at the Oranienburg railroad station. The locomotive was under steam and headed toward the south. 5
10. On 26 September, a KVP train went from Schoenhausen to Oranienburg. 5 On 27 September, two KVP trains, including 15 boxcars and 42 flatcars, went from Wudicke to Oranienburg. 7
11. On 14 September, the KVP installation at Premnitz was apparently occupied to capacity by about 400 KVPs who wore red-bordered black collar patches. 6
12. Between 21 and 28 September, the KVP installation at Premnitz was only lightly occupied by about 50 KVPs. During this period, no KVPs were employed at harvest in the Hohenau area. On 21 September, three trucks, each occupied by 8 to 10 KVPs, came from the direction of Neue Schleuse and entered the installation. The KVPs were covered with dirt. Between 21 and 28 September, the KVP Unit Premnitz was at the troop training grounds in the Ferchels - Mahlitz area. 6, 7
- Comment. The KVP fall inspections include training at the posts and all types of field exercises.

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Comment. The number of recruits observed with, or still to be inducted into the 2d Mecz Regt in Potsdam is considerably higher than that of the 2d Inf Regt Prenzlau or Oranienburg.

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Comment. On 7, 8 and 9 September 1954 the AAA regiment probably moved to Zingst for firing practice. Since KVP AAA units are generally near Zingst for 12 to 14 days only, the absence from the post, as indicated in the present report, appears unusually long.

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Comment. It is believed that the General Wever Kaserne is occupied by about 800 KVPs, including the signal battalion, reconnaissance battalion, motor transport company, tank repair shop, field bakery company, headquarters battery and division ration supply depot.

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Comment. Between 23 and 27 September 1954, KVP contingents from Oranienburg returned to their home station from the Kliest troop training grounds, while other KVP contingents moved from Oranienburg to the Kliest troop training grounds on 27 and 28 September.

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Comment. Another report indicated that the KVP installation at Premnitz was occupied by 200 KVPs only on 14 September 1954. In mid-September 1954, the KVPs of the mortar regiment returned to Premnitz from their harvest employment. Subsequently, the regiment probably moved to the troop training grounds in the area east of Kliest.

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Comment. The observations indicate that the AAA regiment, the mortar regiment, the 1st Mecz Regt and Medium Tank Regiment Oranienburg possibly continued their field exercises until late September 1954, while, except for the AAA regiment, the other KVP contingents in Potsdam started their usual routine training prior to 20 September 1954. Since no recent observations could be obtained from KVP units of the division in Gloewen, Hohenstuecken and Burg, a final conclusion on the training activities of Mechanized Division Potsdam cannot be drawn.

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